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                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
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                      NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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                  BEFORE THE HONORABLE RICHARD SEEBORG
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     UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
 6
                  PLAINTIFF,
7
                                            CASE NO. 20-CR-00249 RS
       VS.
8
     ROWLAND MARCUS ANDRADE,
                                           SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
9
                  DEFENDANT.
                                            VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE
                                            TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022
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                        TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
13
     APPEARANCES:
                              UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
14
     FOR PLAINTIFF
                              450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, 11TH FLOOR
15
                              SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102
                        BY: ANDREW DAWSON, AUSA
16
17
     FOR DEFENDANT
                              KING & SPAULDING, LLP
18
                              50 CALIFORNIA STREET, SUITE 3300
                              SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94111
19
                         BY: MICHAEL J. SHEPARD, ESQUIRE
20
                              KING & SPAULDING, LLP
                              500 WEST 2ND STREET, SUITE 1800
21
                             AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701
                         BY: LUKE RONIGER, ESQUIRE
22
23
24
     REPORTED BY: JOAN MARIE COLUMBINI, CSR #5435, RPR
                   PRO TEM OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER, USDC
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1	TUESDAY, MAY 31, 2022 2:32 P.M.
2	PROCEEDINGS
3	THE CLERK: CALLING CASE 20-CR-249, UNITED STATES
4	VERSUS ROWLAND MARCUS ANDRADE.
5	COUNSEL, PLEASE STATE YOUR APPEARANCES.
6	MR. DAWSON: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR. ANDREW
7	DAWSON FOR THE UNITED STATES.
8	THE COURT: GOOD AFTERNOON.
9	MR. SHEPARD: GOOD AFTERNOON, YOUR HONOR. MICHAEL
10	SHEPARD AND LUKE RONIGER FOR THE DEFENDANT MARCUS ANDRADE. HE
11	IS PRESENT BY ZOOM AND CONSENTS TO PROCEED IN THAT FASHION.
12	THE COURT: GOOD AFTERNOON TO ALL.
13	SO THE LAST GET-TOGETHER WAS MARCH 8TH, THE RECORDS
14	TELL ME. WHAT WE DID THEN WAS JUST SET IT FOR A FURTHER STATUS
15	HEARING. I THINK YOU WERE RELATIVELY NEW TO THE CASE,
16	MR. SHEPARD, AT THAT POINT, WEREN'T YOU?
17	MR. SHEPARD: RELATIVELY, YES, YOUR HONOR.
18	THE COURT: RELATIVELY.
19	WHY DON'T I START WITH MR. DAWSON. WHAT'S THE
20	SITUATION?
21	MR. DAWSON: WELL, YOUR HONOR, SINCE WE WERE LAST
22	BEFORE YOU, WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY CONTINUED WITH DISCOVERY. WE'VE
23	RECEIVED A SERIES OF DISCOVERY REQUESTS FROM THE DEFENSE, SOME
24	FOR REPRODUCTION, SOME FOR, YOU KNOW, ERRORS IN THE PRODUCTION,
25	SOME FOR ADDITIONAL MATERIALS. SO WE'VE BEEN SORTING THROUGH

THOSE.

2.4

YOU KNOW, IT'S AN ONGOING PROCESS. I DON'T KNOW.

THERE COULD BE SOME AREAS WITHIN THERE WHICH MAY MATURE INTO

MOTION PRACTICE BEFORE YOUR HONOR.

THERE WAS A PRODUCTION THAT WENT OUT AT THE END OF
LAST WEEK THAT WAS RELATIVELY SUBSTANTIAL, AND SO WE CONTINUE
TO WORK OUT WHERE THERE ARE AREAS OF AGREEMENTS AND PRODUCTIONS
ARE ONGOING, AND THEN AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT MAY BE, HOPEFULLY,
DISTILLED OVER TIME.

FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S PERSPECTIVE, I THINK AT THIS
POINT THE CASE IS NOT GOING TO RESOLVE BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT.
SO WE HAVE SORT OF EYES SET TOWARDS TRIAL. OUR VIEW REMAINS AS
IT WAS LAST TIME, THAT SETTING A TRIAL DATE AT THIS POINT WOULD
BE APPROPRIATE AND MOTIONS DATE PRIOR TO THAT, OBVIOUSLY,
SPREADING OUT OVER MONTHS.

I THINK GIVEN TRIAL SCHEDULES AND CALENDARS IN THIS
DISTRICT, AS YOUR HONOR IS AWARE OF -- I KNOW I HAVE A TRIAL
BEFORE YOUR HONOR NEXT MARCH. I HAVE A SERIES OF OTHER TRIALS
BEFORE THAT.

WE'RE NOT SEEKING A QUICK TRIAL. WE ARE NOT SEEKING
TO JAM UP MR. SHEPARD OR TO SHORTEN THE TIMELINES. I'M
ENVISIONING, BASED ON THAT CALENDAR, SUMMER OF 2023. I JUST
GET CONCERNED IF WE WAIT TOO MUCH LONGER TO SET A DATE, IT WILL
JUST GET PUSHED EVEN FURTHER OUT.

AND I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT ANY DISCOVERY MATTERS,

OTHER MOTION PRACTICE COULD ALL BE ADDRESSED IF TRIAL WERE TO BE SET IN SUMMER OF 2023.

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THE COURT: HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THIS TRIAL COULD BE?

MR. DAWSON: IT COULD BE RELATIVELY LENGTHY. I THINK THREE TO FOUR WEEKS FOR THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD BE MY GUESS. WE HAVEN'T BEEN DIALING IN ON WITNESSES YET, BUT THAT WOULD BE MY EDUCATED GUESS BASED ON WHERE WE STAND TODAY.

THE COURT: OKAY. MR. SHEPARD?

MR. SHEPARD: SO, I GUESS I WOULD SAY I AGREE WITH
THE VAST MAJORITY OF WHAT MR. DAWSON SAID, RIGHT UP TO THE
POINT WHEN HE STARTED TALKING ABOUT SETTING A TRIAL DATE.
THAT'S WHERE I DON'T AGREE, AND THE REASON I DON'T AGREE IS
THAT WE'RE MAKING A LOT OF GOOD PROGRESS WITH HIS HELP, BUT WE
NEED MORE TIME TO SAY WHAT A REASONABLE DATE WOULD BE FOR HOW
LONG A TRIAL WOULD BE.

I SAY THAT BECAUSE, FIRST OF ALL, WHILE WE'RE WORKING THIS VERY HARD, WE'RE NOT YET DONE REVIEWING WHAT WE HAVE FROM THE GOVERNMENT, AND I'LL EXPLAIN WHY. BUT, SECOND, THROUGH THAT WORK WE NOW KNOW WE DO NOT HAVE SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES OF WHAT WE EXPECT IS MATERIAL INFORMATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

AND, FINALLY, EVEN WHEN WE GET EVERYTHING FROM THE GOVERNMENT, THAT, IN MANY WAYS, IS JUST THE START OF WHAT WE NEED TO BE DOING TO ASSESS OUR DEFENSE.

SO, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE, AT THE LAST APPEARANCE WE

2.4

ASKED FOR, I THINK, 90 TO 120 DAYS TO PUT IT OVER. THE COURT PUT IT OVER FOR 60 DAYS TO SET A DATE AND SEE IF WE WOULD BE IN A POSITION TODAY TO SET A TRIAL DATE. I DON'T THINK WE ARE. I PROPOSE WE DO THE SAME THING AGAIN, WHICH IS SET IT OVER FOR 60 DAYS AND COME BACK, AND, PERHAPS, HOPEFULLY, WE'LL BE IN A POSITION TO SET A TRIAL DATE THEN.

SAID, YOUR HONOR, IF I MAY, WHEN WE WERE LAST BEFORE YOU, WE HAD SEVEN PEOPLE WORKING ON THIS CASE. WE NOW HAVE TEN. WHAT WE CURRENTLY HAVE -- AND THIS IS WHAT WE HAVE, AS OPPOSED TO WHAT WE DON'T HAVE, IS ABOUT 52,000 DOCUMENTS CONSISTING OF JUST UNDER 350,000 PAGES, AND WE'RE MORE THAN HALFWAY THROUGH IT, BUT STILL WORKING THROUGH IT. AND IT'S SLOW GOING, IN PART JUST BECAUSE OF THE VOLUME, BUT IN PART BECAUSE A MATERIAL PERCENTAGE OF THE DOCUMENTS -- I THINK I'D ESTIMATE ABOUT 20 PERCENT -- ARE NOT TEXT SEARCHABLE. THEY'RE JUST JPEGS. THEY'RE PHOTOGRAPHS. SO WE CAN'T USE E-DISCOVERY TOOLS. I HAVE TO HAVE SOMEONE READ EACH ONE.

AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS THAT WERE PRODUCED IN RANDOM ORDER. FOR EXAMPLE, THERE'S A BINDER TAKEN FROM MR. ANDRADE IN ONE OF THE SEARCHES. YOU KNOW, IT WAS A BINDER, ALL PUT TOGETHER NICELY. THE PAGES PRODUCED TO US ARE IN RANDOM ORDER, SO IT'S VERY HARD TO READ AND MAKE SENSE OF THEM. AND THERE ARE OTHER -- THAT'S NOT THE ONLY -- THE BINDER IS NOT THE ONLY EXAMPLE OF THAT.

2.4

EVEN MY TOTAL OF 350,000 PAGES DOESN'T INCLUDE NATIVE FILES PRODUCED SEPARATELY LIKE AUDIO RECORDINGS. OUR ESTIMATE IS THERE ARE 383 AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS, AND WE WOULD ESTIMATE ABOUT A HUNDRED HOURS OF REVIEW THERE.

SO, BOTTOM LINE, WE'RE PLOWING THROUGH A LOT OF THIS MATERIAL. THERE'S STILL A LOT MORE TO DO WITH THE MATERIAL WE HAVE.

BUT IT'S CLEAR TO US NOW, AS WE'VE PLOWED THROUGH
WHAT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH -- AND WE'VE TRIED TO KEEP THE
GOVERNMENT ABREAST OF THE THINGS THAT WE ARE SEEING THAT WE
NEED, AND I THINK MR. DAWSON REFERRED TO THAT EARLIER. AND HE
DID SEND US -- HE SENT US A LETTER TODAY SAYING WE HAVE MORE
MATERIAL COMING. WE HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET, BUT I'M SURE WE'LL
GET IT SHORTLY.

AMONG THE THINGS WE DON'T HAVE, AND, JUDGING FROM HIS LETTER, WE STILL WON'T HAVE EVEN AFTER THE PRODUCTION THAT WE'RE ABOUT TO GET, ARE DEVICES OF MR. ABRAMOFF AND MR. ANDRADE. WE ASKED FOR THOSE SHORTLY BEFORE THE LAST STATUS, I THINK IN EARLY MARCH.

THERE ARE 17 DEVICES THAT WE KNOW OF, LIKE COMPUTERS, EXTERNAL HARD DRIVES, OTHER SMALLER DEVICES. THE GOVERNMENT TOLD US THOSE HAD BEEN PRODUCED, BUT OUR PRODUCTION CONTAINED ONLY A ONE-PAGE .PDF SLIP SHEET, AND SO WE DON'T, AND STILL DO NOT HAVE THE FILES TO BE REVIEWED. THESE ARE CONTEMPORANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS OF THE ALLEGED CO-CONSPIRATORS, SO THEY'RE,

OBVIOUSLY, REALLY IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS.

AND IT MAY BE -- I DON'T KNOW. IT MAY BE THAT SOME

OF THESE WERE PRODUCED TO OUR PREDECESSOR COUNSEL, BUT IT'S OUR

UNDERSTANDING THAT NOT ALL OF THEM WERE, AND, IN ANY EVENT, AS

I THINK WE SAID AT THE LAST STATUS, WE CAN'T ACCESS THOSE

BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL ISSUES THAT MR. ANDRADE HAD WITH HIS

PRIOR DISCOVERY VENDOR. HE JUST RAN OUT OF MONEY. SO THEY

HAVE -- THEY MAY HAVE INFORMATION, BUT WE'RE NOT GETTING IT

FROM THEM.

THERE ARE OTHER ITEMS IN THE GOVERNMENT'S PHYSICAL

FILE THAT WE DON'T HAVE. FOR EXAMPLE, A THUMB DRIVE FROM THE

COMPUTER OF THE JODOINS, ACCORDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S

AFFIDAVIT IN THEIR SEARCH WARRANT. THE JODOINS -- IT'S A

COUPLE -- ARE PURPORTED VICTIMS, AS WELL AS FORMER EMPLOYEES OF

MR. ANDRADE'S. THE AFFIDAVIT SUGGESTS THESE -- WHAT'S ON THAT

THUMB DRIVE ARE GOING TO BE RELEVANT TO THE -- AMONG OTHER

DEVELOPMENTS, THE STATE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF MR. ANDRADE'S

TECHNOLOGY, WHICH IS ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL ISSUES IN THE CASE.

WE ASKED FOR THAT ON MARCH 3RD. WE STILL DON'T HAVE IT. I

COULD LIST FIVE OR SIX MORE ITEMS LIKE THAT.

THE COURT: I GET THE PICTURE, I THINK, THAT THERE'S

A GREAT DEAL LEFT, AND I KNOW IT'S A COMPLICATED -- COMPLICATED

BACKGROUND IN THIS CASE. THE PROBLEM -- THE CONCERN I HAVE

ABOUT JUST NOT SETTING ANYTHING IS THE NATURE OF THE BACKLOG

AND THE CALENDAR IS THAT, YOU KNOW, IF WE DON'T EVEN GET A

PLACEHOLDER, WE'RE REALLY WAY BACK, BECAUSE I HAVE -- I AGREE WITH YOU I HAVE A CASE WITH YOU, MR. DAWSON, IN MARCH, BUT THEN TOWARD THE END OF MARCH I HAVE AN MS-13 FOUR OR FIVE DEFENDANT CASE, AND THAT WILL GO ON FOR MONTHS. SO IF I DON'T GET, YOU KNOW, YOU IN THE QUEUE, I MEAN, WE'RE REALLY BACKING UP.

AND WHAT I'M INCLINED TO DO IS, WITH ALL THE CAVEATS
THAT YOU HAVE INDICATED, MR. SHEPARD, IS TO -- IS TO GO AHEAD
WITH A TRIAL DATE, BUT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING IT MAY WELL HAVE
TO BE ADJUSTED BACK. BUT I'M CONCERNED IF I DON'T EVEN GET YOU
ON THE BEGINNING OF THE LIST, IT'S REALLY GOING TO BE -BECAUSE WE'RE ALREADY TALKING ABOUT MORE THAN A YEAR FROM NOW.
AND THEN, YOU KNOW, I'M NOT REALLY OPTIMISTIC IT WILL BE ABLE
TO GO THEN.

OF MATTERS THAT HAVE AT LEAST THEORETICAL TRIAL DATES AND THE ONES THAT DON'T. WHEN WE START MOVING AROUND THE THEORETICAL TRIAL DATE, PEOPLE MAYBE HAVE A LITTLE BIT OF A STEP UP FROM THE PEOPLE THAT DON'T EVEN HAVE THAT. SO I'M INCLINED TO GET YOU ON THE LIST, BUT WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT IT'S NOT ONE OF THOSE: THIS IS YOUR TRIAL DATE, AND COME HELL OR HIGH WATER THIS IS WHEN IT'S GOING TO GO. I COULD SEE IT HAS TO BE ADJUSTED.

I AM INCLINED TO THINK, IF WE ARE TALKING ABOUT

SUMMER OF 2023, I OUGHT TO JUST HAVE A DATE WE COULD AT LEAST

START TO SHOOT FOR, AND MAYBE WE CAN START, YOU KNOW, BUILDING

BACK A LITTLE BIT.

SO I'M NOT SURE IT'S REALLY INCONSISTENT WITH YOUR VIEW, MR. SHEPARD, BECAUSE -- IT'S MORE OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE MARKER SO THAT THE CASE, YOU KNOW, HAS GOT SOME CURRENT HOME, IF YOU WILL.

MR. SHEPARD: I UNDERSTAND THAT, YOUR HONOR. I

APPRECIATE THAT. OBVIOUSLY, THE COURT KNOWS THIS MUCH BETTER

THAN I DO. BUT I FEAR THAT THE SUMMER MAY BE A LITTLE EARLY,

AND THEN THE QUESTION IS, IF THAT'S THE TRIAL DATE THAT WE HAVE

BECAUSE WE'VE SET IT NOW, WOULD THAT PREJUDICE US, SAY, FROM

GETTING SOME TRIAL DATE IN --

THE COURT: EARLIER?

MR. SHEPARD: -- THE LATE FALL. NO, NO, NOT EARLIER,
BUT THE LATE FALL OF NEXT YEAR, BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, IN 60 DAYS,
WE MIGHT BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO PIN THAT DOWN.

THE COURT: I ACTUALLY THINK -- LET'S ASSUME FOR THE HYPOTHETICAL THAT THIS ENDS UP IN LATE FALL DATE, I THINK YOU WOULD BE BETTER OFF, FRANKLY -- IF YOU HAVE AN EARLIER TRIAL DATE AND I'VE SET THINGS FOR, SAY, IN THE FALL AND SOMEBODY IN THE EARLY -- OR IN THE SUMMER NEEDS TO MOVE, THAT ONE GETS PREFERENCE OVER THE ONE THAT WAS SET FOR THE FALL. THAT ONE WILL HAVE TO MOVE.

SO I THINK YOU ARE BETTER OFF, FRANKLY -- I WAS
THINKING -- THE OTHER PROBLEM WITH SUMMER, QUITE CANDIDLY,
JULY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS ALWAYS A CONFERENCE MONTH, AND WE'VE GOT

1	THE NINTH CIRCUIT CONFERENCE IS ALWAYS IN JULY, AND I'VE GOT A
2	CHIEF JUDGES THING THAT'S ALWAYS AROUND THE SAME TIME. THEN
3	YOU HAVE TO CHOP IT UP, WHICH I DON'T PARTICULARLY WANT TO DO.
4	WHY DON'T WE SET IT FOR AUGUST OF 2023 SO WE HAVE
5	SOMETHING SITTING THERE, AND I WILL YOU CAN REMIND ME OF OUR
6	CONVERSATION IF I SAY TO YOU AND I THINK WE'LL DO BOTH. I
7	THINK I'LL SET A FURTHER STATUS IN 90 DAYS FROM NOW, AND I'LL
8	SET A TRIAL DATE IN AUGUST OF 2023.
9	SO, MS. LEW, CAN YOU GIVE US AN AUGUST DATE IN 2023?
10	THE CLERK: AUGUST 7TH.
11	THE COURT: AUGUST 7TH, THAT'S THE CURRENT DATE. AND
12	HOW ABOUT IN ROUGHLY 90 DAYS, IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE EXACT,
13	FURTHER STATUS BY VIDEO?
14	THE CLERK: OKAY. AUGUST 30TH.
15	THE COURT: OKAY. YEAH. WELL, YEAH, OKAY. THAT'S
16	WHEN THE MARCUS TRIAL WILL BE GOING, AND I LEAVE THE DAY I
17	LEAVE THAT WEEK, BUT THAT'S ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
18	WE'LL HAVE THIS AS A STATUS.
19	OKAY. WHAT'S THE TRIAL, MR. DAWSON, I HAVE WITH YOU
20	IN MARCH?
21	MR. DAWSON: IT'S A DRUG DIVERSION TRIAL. STEPHEN
22	SILVERMAN IS THE DEFENDANT.
23	THE COURT: OH, YEAH, YEAH.
24	MR. DAWSON: AND MR. OVASAPYAN, AND A VARIETY OF
25	DEFENDANTS, ONE LEFT FOR TRIAL.

1	THE COURT: CAN'T YOU GET THAT THING RESOLVED?
2	ALL RIGHT. VERY GOOD. THAT'S NOT MR. SHEPARD'S
3	PROBLEM, SO WE WON'T BURDEN HIM WITH THAT.
4	OKAY. ANYTHING ELSE?
5	MR. DAWSON: WELL, I THINK, YOUR HONOR, WITH THE KIND
6	OF TENTATIVE PLACEHOLDER TRIAL DATE, IT MAY MAKE SENSE TO
7	EXCLUDE TIME THROUGH THAT DATE, WHICH WOULD COVER US FOR
8	INTERIM CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES, OR WE CAN PROCEED ON KIND
9	OF A CASE MANAGEMENT TO CASE MANAGEMENT BASIS.
10	THE COURT: I THINK THE RECORD IS BETTER WHEN WE DO
11	CASE MANAGEMENT TO CASE MANAGEMENT. LET'S DO THE EXCLUSION
12	ASSUMING MR. SHEPARD AGREES, WE'LL DO THE EXCLUSION THROUGH TO
13	AUGUST 30TH. THEN IF I HAVE TO MOVE THAT CMC, YOU CAN REMIND
14	ME AND WE CAN JUST ADJUST THE TIME.
15	MR. SHEPARD, ANY PROBLEM EXCLUDING TIME THROUGH
16	AUGUST 30TH?
17	MR. SHEPARD: NO OBJECTION, YOUR HONOR.
18	THE COURT: ALL RIGHT. OKAY. WELL, WE'LL SEE YOU IN
19	AUGUST.
20	MR. SHEPARD: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
21	MR. DAWSON: THANK YOU, YOUR HONOR.
22	THE COURT: THANKS.
23	(PROCEEDINGS ADJOURNED AT 2:51 P.M.)
24	
25	

1	STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
2) SS
3	COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA)
4	
5	I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING IN THE
6	WITHIN-ENTITLED CAUSE WAS TAKEN AT THE TIME AND PLACE HEREIN
7	NAMED; THAT THE TRANSCRIPT IS A TRUE RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS
8	AS REPORTED BY ME, A DULY CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER AND A
9	DISINTERESTED PERSON, AND WAS THEREAFTER TRANSCRIBED INTO
10	TYPEWRITING BY COMPUTER.
11	I FURTHER CERTIFY THAT I AM NOT INTERESTED IN THE
12	OUTCOME OF THE SAID ACTION, NOR CONNECTED WITH, NOR RELATED TO
13	ANY OF THE PARTIES IN SAID ACTION, NOR TO THEIR RESPECTIVE
14	COUNSEL.
15	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SET MY HAND THIS
16	1ST DAY OF JULY, 2022.
17	
18	
19	prcolumbini
20	JOAN MARIE COLUMBINI, CSR NO. 5435
21	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
22	
23	
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I	